

REMARKS UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111

Formal Matters

Claims 1-31 and 33-52 are pending after entry of the amendments set forth herein.

Claims 1-29 and 34-39 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 30-33 were examined and rejected.

By this Amendment, claim 32 has been cancelled without prejudice; claims 30, 31 and 33 have been amended; and claims 40-52 have been added. The amendments to the claims were made solely in the interest of expediting prosecution, and are not to be construed as an acquiescence to any objection or rejection of any claim. Support for the amendments to the claims are found throughout the specification. Accordingly, no new matter is added by these amendments.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments and remarks made herein.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

In the Office Action, claims 30, 31 and 32 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

As claim 32 has been cancelled, this rejection has been made moot with respect to claim 32. With respect to claims 20 and 32, the amendments made herein are believed to fully address the particulars pointed out by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

In the Office Action, claims 30, 31 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lundin et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,379,592) in view of Abrahamson (U.S. Patent No. 5,403,291).

Claims 30, 31, 33 as well as newly added claims 40-52 are directed to a method of manufacture of micro-needle structures which are either configured for penetrating the skin or other tissue structures or have a vertex having a sharp tip. Neither Lundin nor Abrahamson nor the combination thereof disclose or suggest a method for the manufacture of micro-needle structures either configured for

penetrating the skin or other tissue structures or having a vertex having a sharp tip. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

In the Office Action, claim 32 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lundin et al. in view of Abrahamson and further in view of Stiger (U.S. Patent No. 6,117,386).

As claim 32 has been cancelled, this rejection has been made moot.

Conclusion

Applicant submits that all of the claims are in condition for allowance, which action is requested. If the Examiner finds that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extensions of time, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0815, order number LIFE-024.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: 5/2/03

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